

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 16, as set forth in the attached marked-up version of the amended claims, to read as follows.

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1. (Twice Amended) A tool holding device comprising:
a first rail and a second rail vertically and horizontally offset from each other thereby forming an opening therebetween for receiving an elongate member in a generally vertical orientation; and
substantially horizontally disposed means for supporting a lower end of the elongate member when received between the rails.

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16. (Twice Amended) A method for storing elongate members comprising the steps of:
providing a first rail and a second rail vertically and horizontally offset from each other thereby forming an opening therebetween for receiving an elongate member in a generally vertical orientation;
providing substantially horizontally disposed means for supporting a lower end of the elongate member when received between the rails; and
inserting the elongate member between the rails.

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Please add the following new claims 24-42.

24. (New) A tool holding device comprising a first rail and a second rail vertically and horizontally offset from each other thereby forming an opening therebetween for receiving an elongate member in a generally vertical orientation, said tool holding device lacking means for supporting a lower end of the elongate member when received between the rails.
25. (New) A device according to claim 24 wherein the rails comprise generally parallel crossbars further characterized by generally opposed edges for contacting the elongate member when inserted therebetween.
26. (New) A device according to claim 25 further characterized by at least one depression formed along the opposed edges in the crossbars.

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contd
27. (New) A device according to claim 26 further characterized by a second depression formed along the opposed edges in the crossbars.
28. (New) A device according to claim 27 wherein the depressions are formed in both of the opposed edges and are generally aligned, thereby restricting movement of the elongate member when disposed therein.
29. (New) A device according to claim 25 further comprising two end plates attached to side edges of the crossbars, whereby the end plates and the crossbars form a stable structure.
30. (New) A device according to claim 29 wherein outward extents of the end plates define a footprint and wherein a vertical projection through a center of gravity of an elongate member inserted between the crossbars lies within the footprint.
31. (New) A device according to claim 24 further comprising at least one elongate member inserted between the rails, the elongate member including a support for supporting an item thereon.
32. (New) A device according to claim 31 further comprising a shelf disposed on the support.
33. (New) A device according to claim 24 wherein the first rail and the second rail comprise a first hoop and a second hoop generally concentric therewith, further wherein the first hoop and the second hoop comprise generally opposed edges for contacting the elongate member when inserted therebetween.
34. (New) A device according to claim 33 further characterized by at least one depression formed along the opposed edges in the hoops.
35. (New) A device according to claim 34 further characterized by a second depression formed along the opposed edges in the hoops.
36. (New) A device according to claim 35 wherein the depressions are formed in both of the opposed edges and are generally aligned, thereby restricting movement of the elongate member when disposed therein.